

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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October 30, 2023

The Honorable Gene Dodaro  
Comptroller General  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

On October 18, 2023, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (Select Subcommittee) conducted a hearing titled “Strengthening Biosafety and Biosecurity Standards: Protecting Against Future Pandemics.”<sup>1</sup> The hearing examined the effectiveness of biosafety and biosecurity policies currently in place as well as identified potential measures for improvement.

Accordingly, the Select Subcommittee is seeking further information regarding current, existing biosafety and biosecurity standards around the world. The Select Subcommittee requests an evaluation from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) of the current biosafety and biosecurity standards of major foreign countries compared to those existing in the United States.

As we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic, biosafety and biosecurity issues have the potential to affect the international community. While the United States evaluates its own biosafety and biosecurity standards, precautions taken by other nations remain highly relevant to the Select Subcommittee’s work. To that end, the Select Subcommittee requests a comprehensive report of the G20 member nations’ biosafety and biosecurity standards.

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic is authorized to investigate “the implementation or effectiveness of any Federal law on regulation applied, enacted, or under consideration to address the coronavirus pandemic and prepare for future pandemics” under H. Res. 5. To schedule the briefing or ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Select Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-5074 and (202) 225-5051.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> *Strengthening Biosafety and Biosecurity Standards: Protecting Against Future Pandemics, Hearing Before Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Pandemic, 118th Cong. (Oct. 18, 2023).*



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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Chairman



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Ranking Member